

Caring for your natural resources ... now and forever



DNR is administered by the Commissioner of Public Lands, a statewide elected official. **Peter Goldmark** is Washington's thirteenth Commissioner of Public Lands since statehood in 1889.



Every day, all across Washington State, the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) serves the state's citizens by managing a variety of lands and protecting natural resources in a variety of ways.

The more than 5 million acres that DNR manages for the state include forest, range, commercial, agricultural and aquatic lands. Since 1970, DNR-managed lands have generated \$6 billion. Most of these are "trust lands" that support public schools, state institutions or county services. These lands provide many other public benefits, too: fish and wildlife habitat, clean and abundant water, and public access for outdoor recreation.

DNR also manages Natural Resources Conservation Areas and Natural Area Preserves that protect unique and threatened native ecosystems, and which offer educational and research opportunities. Some of these Natural Areas also are open to hikers.

DNR fights wildfires and supports the state Forest Practices Board in protecting public resources on about 12 million acres of private and state-owned forestland. DNR regulates surface mine reclamation, too, and provides technical assistance for forestry and mining. DNR also provides information about geologic hazards and rare native plant species and ecosystems, and helps local communities with grants for fire prevention and urban forestry.

OUR VISION

At DNR, we envision a future in which our human and natural environment provides abundant and diverse social, ecological, and economic benefits for all the people of Washington, in this and all future generations. In acting to ensure this vision, we achieve sustainability.

DNR At-a-Glance | A Closer Look

DNR plays a variety of roles that support the vision of a sustainable future—for state trust lands and beneficiaries, for native ecosystems, and for the natural resources that provide jobs, recreation and inspiration for the people of Washington state.

Managing Washington's Trust Lands

DNR manages 3 million acres of trust lands to provide revenue for specific beneficiaries and to benefit the public. These non-tax revenue dollars help fund statewide construction of public schools, universities, prisons and other state institutions, and fund services in many counties, such as libraries, firefighting, and hospitals. Revenue generated from some of the trust lands also contributes to the state General Fund.

Revenue-producing activities on state trust lands include sustainable management and harvest of timber and forest products, leasing of agricultural lands (for orchards, vineyards, row crops, dryland crops, and grazing), mineral leases, and leasing of communication sites and commercial properties.

In addition to earning income, trust lands are habitat for native plant and animal species. They also protect clean and abundant water, and offer public recreation and education opportunities statewide.

The Board of Natural Resources governs the management of Washington's State Trust Lands. By law, the Board consists of the Commissioner of Public Lands, Governor or her/his designee, Superintendent of Public Instruction, U of W Dean of the College of Forest Resources, WSU Dean of College of Agriculture and Home Economics, and a county representative selected by the counties benefiting from State Forest trust lands.

Conserving Washington's Natural Heritage

At DNR, the Washington Natural Heritage Program collects data about existing native ecosystems and species to provide an objective, scientific basis for determining what needs protection and how to best protect it. The program also develops and recommends strategies for protecting the native ecosystems and species most threatened in Washington State. This information is used by landowners, state and federal agencies, consulting firms, local planning departments, and conservation groups to support the state's environmental and economic health.

DNR also manages Natural Areas to protect outstanding examples of the state's natural diversity. These Natural Resources Conservation Areas (NRCAs) and Natural Area Preserves (NAPs) represent the finest remaining examples of native ecosystems in state ownership, often protecting features that are unique to the region. Natural Areas offer educational and research opportunities, and some are also open to hikers

Protecting Public Resources

DNR administers the state Forest Practices rules which guide logging, road construction, brush control, fertilization and other work in the woods on about 12 million acres of state and privately owned forestlands. DNR works with landowners and loggers so their activities don't damage public resources—fish and wildlife, water quality, and capital improvements.

The rules are based on the state's Forest Practices Act, which defines a plan to protect public resources while assuring that Washington continues to be a productive timber-growing area.

The rules are established by the 12-member Washington Forest Practices Board. Seven of the board members are appointed by the Governor, and five are designated by law, including the Commissioner of Public Lands and the heads (or their designees) of the departments of Community, Trade, and Economic Development; Agriculture; Ecology; and Fish and Wildlife.

Learn more on the web TRUST LAND MANAGEMENT

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Aquatic lands in Shi Shi beach on Washington's Northern coast.

OUR MISSION

To provide professional, forward-looking stewardship of our state lands, natural resources, and environment. To provide leadership in creating a sustainable future for the Trusts and all citizens.

Managing Aquatic Lands

DNR is steward of more than 2.6 million acres of aquatic lands—beaches and lands under Puget Sound, the coast, and navigable lakes and rivers. These submerged lands are managed on behalf of the general public to protect the fish and other wildlife and to provide commerce, navigation, and public access. Revenue is generated from the sale of renewable resources such as geoducks and from leases for marinas and other uses on the aquatic lands. This revenue is used to protect the health and productivity of aquatic resources, and to help fund local projects that create public access to aquatic lands.

Providing Public Access for Recreation

DNR-managed state trust lands provide public access for many recreation opportunities—in rustic campgrounds and picnic areas, interpretive sites and more than a thousand miles of trails. These state lands are destinations for bicycling, hiking, motorized off-road vehicle riding, horseback riding, fishing, bird watching and more.

Most of these opportunities are on forested trust lands. These are working forests, so visitors should watch for logging trucks year round.

Fighting and Preventing Wildfires

DNR is the state's largest oncall fire department, with 1,200 temporary and permanent employees who fight wildfires on about 12.7 million acres of private and state-owned forestlands. DNR works with other state, federal and local agencies to respond to wildfires, and offers local fire districts support with fire protection and safety equipment requirements.

Crowded, unhealthy forests increase the risk of catastrophic wildfires. DNR monitors forest health across the state and helps teach landowners and communities how to improve forest health and reduce wildfire risks

Providing Geological Services

DNR provides information about the geology of the state. DNR geologists compile and publish geologic maps, which are basic tools used by geologists, civil engineers, and planners. For example, planners use DNR's geological data and interpretations to make emergency management plans for events such as earthquakes or volcanic eruptions, or to assess the risks of developing an area that lies above an historical coal mine. Industry uses DNR's information, too, as do rockhounds and researchers.

DNR also regulates surface mine and metal mine reclamation, oil and gas drilling, gas storage, geothermal drilling, and underground fluids injection.

Learn more on the web at

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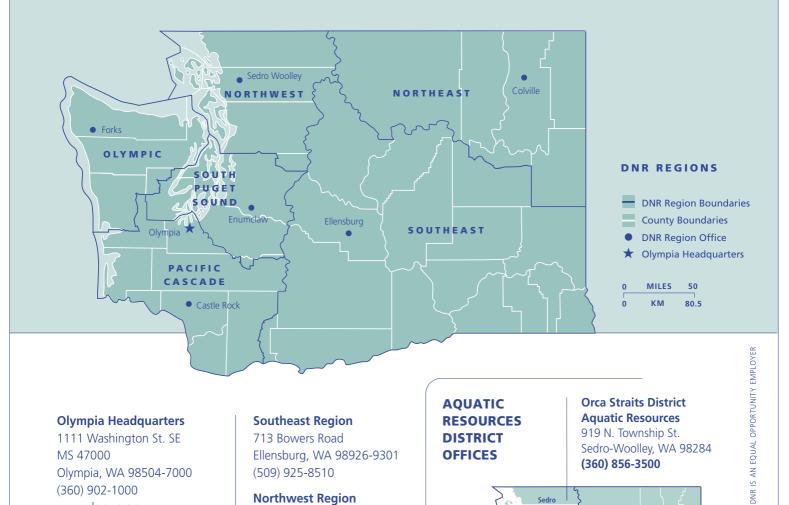
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For more information about how public lands are managed visit DNR's web page at www.dnr.wa.gov